

The Senator

The Newsletter of the Wake Forest University Senate

Volume 8, No. 2

Harry Titus, President

Spring, 2005/2006

A Year of Transition

Harry Titus, President

Felicitations! A long-term goal of the Senate and of the larger Wake Forest University community was achieved recently when President Hatch sent a letter to Gloria Stickney, co-Chair of the Senate Ad Hoc Staff Issues Committee, announcing the formation of a Staff Advisory Council that will be chaired by Vice-President Matt Cullinan during the 2006-2007 year. During the next year the Council will work on representation issues and on goals and procedures for the new body. The staff members who have served on the Ad Hoc committee over the past few years deserve our gratitude for their determined advocacy of a staff voice in the affairs of the University. President Hatch has been supportive of a staff advisory group from our very first conversations about filling this gap in our governance. I am certain that everyone concerned with this effort believes that Wake Forest will benefit from the input of the new Council.

I urge colleagues to review the minutes of the past academic year's meetings. There are many reports appended to the minutes; I especially want to call attention to Anne Boyle's report in the April 12th minutes on behalf of the Women's Forum, "Synopsis of Child Care Discussions." The Senate Fringe Benefits Committee will be working with the Women's Forum to try to advance this discussion, which has gone unresolved for so long.

President Hatch and Provost Gordon have made good on their pledge that representatives of the Senate could meet with them to discuss any issue. I have found it particularly refreshing to be able to exchange ideas without feeling a sense of constraint. I trust that this spirit of exploration and a search for the positive results will continue. Along these lines, the President and Provost have indicated that the Senate will play an important role in the upcoming strategic planning process.

An area that needs review is the mission of the Senior University Appointments Committee. As its chair, Joe Tobin, reports below, three appointments were made this year, in administration, in development and in finance. In each case the committee interviewed only the successful candidate. This is not the procedure that proved to be valuable in the recent Presidential search and in earlier searches. In the past the committee has interviewed multiple finalists for senior positions. President Hatch has spoken about the problem of attracting excellent candidates without tight confidentiality restrictions. While I can understand his position, I think we have taken a step backwards in Senate participation in searches for our senior administrators.

Carole Browne is the Senate's representative to the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. She is a member of that organization's steering committee. The COIA has been increasingly successful in placing faculty concerns in front of the NCAA. Carole reports to the Senate regularly, most recently at the February 15th meeting.

The most recent version of a plan to support health benefits of our lower-paid employees has been discussed in committee, and will be brought to the full Senate in the fall.

Committee Reports

The Ad Hoc Committee on Reynolda Campus Staff Issues

Gloria Stickney, SI Co-chair

The Winston-Salem Arts Council met with the SI committee in February to provide information about their Spring Awareness Campaign. The Winston-Salem Arts Council is the oldest in the United States. Last year they made over \$1,000,000 in grants, while supporting 13 organizations. This year's theme is "Grow Arts." The new campaign was launched this spring on the WFU campus. Payroll deductions are an option, with agency designation available. The Arts Council website is: <http://www.intothearts.org/>

I met with Dr. Hatch regarding the formation of the Staff Advisory Council and subsequently the SI committee has met with Dr. Matthew Cullinan, VP for Administration beginning July 1, 2006. Dr. Cullinan has agreed to temporarily serve as Co-Chair of the SAC. The SI committee received a letter from Dr. Hatch outlining his goals of *Statement of Purpose and Governing Guidelines* for the SAC. It is his desire "that the Council is successful in meeting its mission and that it is structured to allow for appropriate means of interaction between staff and administration and that it is allowed to "grow into" its new role."

Senior University Appointments Committee (SUA)

Joe Tobin, SUA Chair

During the last few months, the Senior University Appointments committee met with finalist candidates for three vice president positions: VP for Administration, VP for Finance, and VP for Development. The SUA forwarded its comments to President Hatch regarding each of the candidates and the positions have been appointed.

University Oversight Committee (UOC)

David Coates, UOC Chair

This has been a year of hopeful beginnings, long overdue. The Oversight Committee has been briefed on the Undergraduate and Professional Schools budgets for FY06 and FY07, and on the longer term picture back to FY1995. Those budgets have demonstrated the heavy dependence of the non-medical parts of the University on the flow of an adequate volume of tuition fees, and on the capacity of the University's auxiliary endeavors to make a significant profit. The right of Senators to be fully informed on these matters, and to be free to discuss their findings with colleagues, is clearly in place.

What is not in place is clarity. The way in which the University has traditionally organized its description of its spending obscures many of the resource flows in play and – more importantly – the spending priorities they represent. The Senate does not even receive the budget of the Medical School, even though Senate membership stretches out to include faculty from that school; and from the budget summaries it does receive, it is extremely difficult accurately to gauge spending on such vital items as staff salaries, university athletics, even information technology. The task for next year must be to widen the range of financial matter coming before the Committee (and the Senate), and to disaggregate the data already made available. Only in that way can we hope to have a fully-informed discussion of the genuine costs and benefits of particular policy choices; and only in that way too can Senate members come to an understanding of just how stable/precarious is the University's long-term financial position. An early

agenda item for next year, therefore, must be a long conversation with the new Vice-President for Finance on just these matters.

Senate Initiative Status April 2006

Initiative	Status
Participation in Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA).	Senate regularized its participation in COIA and created a process to review the program.
Develop better means of communicating financial and budget issues.	Under construction in the University Oversight Committee.
Evaluation of Senior Administrators.	Completed.
Salary-dependent Premiums for Health Insurance.	Meetings were held in April 2006; a proposal will come before the Senate in the fall.
Ad hoc committee on staff issues.	Staff Advisory Council approved for 2006-2007.
Continue to work on the Reynolda Campus parking situation.	Three parking deck projects on hold in Capital Planning Committee
Work with the University administration On the creation of a day-care center.	Discussions renewed by the Women's Forum